

IN THE  
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): CORBIN L. CHAMPION et al.

Confirmation No.:

Application No.:

Examiner:

Filing Date:

Group Art Unit:

Title: STORAGE DEVICE HAVING A PROBE WITH A FIRST PLATE THAT COOPERATES WITH A SECOND PLATE TO PROVIDE A VARIABLE CAPACITANCE

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

under 37 CFR 1.97(b), or  
(Within three months of filing national application; or date of entry of national application; or before mailing date of first office action on the merits; whichever occurs last)

under 37 CFR 1.97(c) together with either a:  
 Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e), or  
 a \$180.00 fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p), or  
(After the CFR 1.97 (b) time period, but before final action or notice of allowance, whichever occurs first)

under 37 CFR 1.97 (d) together with a:  
 Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1) or (2), and  
 a \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).  
(Filed after final action, a notice of allowance, on or before payment of the issue fee)

Please charge to Deposit Account 08-2025 the sum of \$0.00. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 08-2025 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25.

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO 1449 - Information Disclosure Statement together with any required copies of patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe(s) may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56.

A concise explanation of the relevance of foreign language patents, foreign language publications and other foreign language information listed on PTO Form 1449, as presently understood by the individual(s) designated in 37 CFR 1.56 (c) most knowledgeable about the content is given on the attached sheet, or where a foreign language patent is cited in a search report or other action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, an English language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is listed on form PTO 1449 and is enclosed herewith.

It is requested that the information disclosed herein be made of record in this application.

"Express Mail" label no. EL 990135799US

Date of Deposit March 9, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

**CORBIN L. CHAMPION et al.**

By



Dan C. Hu

Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 40,025

Date: Mar. 9, 2004

I hereby certify that this is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By Dawn L. Thomas  
Typed Name: Dawn L. Thomas

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|--|---|-----------------|------------------|
| FORM PTO-1449<br><br><b>LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR<br/>APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT</b><br><br>(Use several sheets if necessary) | ATTY. DOCKET NO.                              | APPLICATION NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|  | 200312290-1                                   |                 |                  |
|  | APPLICANT<br><b>CORBIN L. CHAMPION et al.</b> | FILING DATE     | GROUP            |

**REFERENCE DESIGNATION**      **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| EXAMINER INITIAL |    | DOCUMENT NUMBER | PUBLICATION DATE | NAME            | Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Figures Appear |
|------------------|----|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|---|
|                  | 1A | 6,473,361       | 10/29/2002       | Chen et al.     |   |
|                  | 1B | 6,370,107       | 04/09/2002       | Hosaka et al.   |   |
|                  | 1C | 6,233,206       | 05/15/2001       | Hamann et al.   |   |
|                  | 1D | 5,345,815       | 09/13/1994       | Albrecht et al. |   |
|                  | 1E | 5,856,967       | 01/05/1999       | Mamin et al.    |   |
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|                  | 1G |                 |                  |                 |   |
|                  | 1H |                 |                  |                 |   |
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|                  | 1J |                 |                  |                 |   |
|                  | 1K |                 |                  |                 |   |

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

|  |    | DOCUMENT NUMBER | PUBLICATION DATE | NAME OF PATENTEE OR APPLICANT | Pages/Columns/Lines Where Relevant Passages/Figures Appear | Check if Translation attached |
|--|----|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
|  | 1L |                 |                  |                               |  |                               |
|  | 1M |                 |                  |                               |  |                               |
|  | 1N |                 |                  |                               |  |                               |
|  | 1O |                 |                  |                               |  |                               |
|  | 1P |                 |                  |                               |  |                               |

**OTHER REFERENCES (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)**

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 1Q | Vettiger and Binnig, Scientific American, "The Nanodrive Project," pp. 47-51, 53 (January 2003). |
| 1R |  |
| 1S |  |

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED